Iowa Department of Education

November 2008

Resources for Iowa School Leaders

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Keeping Our Eyes on the Vision

As the implementation of the lowa Core Curriculum begins, it is important to keep our eyes on the vision of what we all hope for our lowa students. It is sometimes easy to get lost in the throes of implementation work and lose sight of the prize.

The Core Curriculum is really about improving teaching and learning for all. It is about understanding that there are essential concepts and skills that all students need to possess in order to compete in this global society. It is about:

- Providing our educators the tools and resources to adjust instruction;
- Providing student learning opportunities that are meaningful and challenging; and
- Analyzing data and student information that lets us know if we are hitting the mark.

As educators, board members, and community stakeholders examine the Core Curriculum, a common question is, "How will we know that our students have attained these skills?" The answer is not simple because a balanced assessment approach is necessary.

Each district in Iowa is responsible for an assessment plan. As you begin your implementation plans for the Core Curriculum, it is also important to consider the assessment strategies and tools needed.

- What do classroom assessment users need?
- What knowledge and feedback does a student need?
- What does the teacher need to know to adjust instruction and provide feedback?

These are data needed on a very frequent basis, usually several times during a class period.

At the school level, what do principals, teacher teams, and curriculum leaders need to know? This type of data is usually compiled at quarters, semesters, or on a yearly basis.

At the district level, what is needed to inform the policy makers and the community? This type of data is usually produced on a yearly basis from standardized assessment practices across the district.

There are fundamental differences in the approaches because the informational needs are different at each level. Thus, as the work begins in earnest constant questions are:

"How will we know?"

"How will parents know?"

"What data are needed to make the right decisions to improve student learning?"

To help education leaders answer these questions, the Iowa Department of Education (DE) is working with the state's area education agencies (AEAs) to develop guidance and technical assistance. Specifically, the DE and AEAs are developing professional development plans that focus on assessment practices that best support implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum; identifying tools and processes that best support the implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum; and developing professional development materials that focus on the improvement assessment practices that best support implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum. In addition, the DE is working with the Iowa Testing Program on end-of-course assessments and a writing assessment.

Analyzing data and student information is essential to keeping our eye on the prize.

Judy Jeffrey

Program Offers Teachers the Opportunity to Teach in Taiwan

The Iowa Department of Education has an agreement with the Ministry of Education in the Republic of China (Taiwan) that offers experienced and newly licensed Iowa elementary teachers the opportunity to teach in Taiwanese schools for one academic year.

Participants work with local Taiwanese teachers to develop curriculum and teach English to elementary students. Recent participants have found the experience extremely fulfilling and worthwhile.

The application and a frequently asked questions document are attached. Applications must be postmarked by April 24, 2009.

Contact Brianne Munoz at 515-725-2067or brianne.munoz@iowa.gov for additional information.

State Board of Education to Meet in November

The State Board of Education will hold a regular meeting November 19-21. The location is to be determined. Please check the lowa Department of Education website for updates.

Iowa Department of Education Releases State Report Card

The lowa Department of Education (DE) recently released *The State Report Card for No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*. The report shows a change in the state's proficiency targets, which is the percent of students across the state that must be proficient in reading and math.

On average, the state proficiency targets increased by approximately 6 percent. These goals are currently adjusted every three years to ensure all schools reach 100 percent student proficiency in reading and math by the 2013-2014 school year as required by the NCLB law.

Of the state's 1,477 schools in 2007-2008, 136 or 9.2 percent were identified as schools in need of assistance (SINA). Of the state's 364 school districts, 13 or 3.6 percent were identified as districts in need of assistance.

The State Report Card for No Child Left Behind contributes to the state's federal No Child Left Behind reporting requirements. The complete report is available on the lowa Department of Education website.

New Tool Helps Adult Learners Earn Diplomas

A new partnership among the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa's 15 community colleges, Iowa Public Television (IPTV), and Mediacom will use on-demand television technology to make it easier for Iowans without a high school diploma to prepare for the General Educational Development (GED®) Tests.

The partnership now offers GED On Demand as a way to provide instructional support to more of the nearly 290,000 eligible lowans. IPTV is the state's official licensee for video educational materials developed specifically for GED test preparation. The entire test preparation series is now available for viewing as part of the free programming Mediacom's digital cable subscribers can select using On Demand (channel 1).

Adults using GED On Demand can choose from an assortment of 39 learning modules that provide instruction in the five official GED test areas: science, mathematics, social studies, reading, and writing.

For more information on this meeting, please contact Helene Grossman at helene.grossman@iowa.gov or 515-281-3640.

Five Iowa Schools Named Blue Ribbon Schools

The lowa Department of Education recently announced four lowa public schools and one lowa accredited non-public school have been identified by the U.S. Department of Education as 2008 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) — Blue Ribbon Schools.

The Iowa schools are: Denver High School, Denver; Pocahontas Area Elementary School, Pocahontas; Runnells Elementary School, Runnells; Southeast Elementary School, Waverly; and Holy Trinity Catholic School, Des Moines.

The No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: 1) Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; and 2) Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

The schools were nominated by the Iowa Department of Education based on 2006-2007 achievement data.

Microsoft Settlement Timelines

The following are current key dates for the Microsoft settlement. The lowa School Microsoft Settlement program is the result of the 2007 settlement of a class-action lawsuit brought by lowa consumers and businesses concerning certain Microsoft software. According to the settlement, lowa schools would receive a portion of the funds not claimed by consumers.

	Curren	t Key Dates for Microsoft Settl	ement
Opening Date	Closing date	Event	Comments
August 31, 2007	December 15, 2007	Individual and organization file claims with administrator.	Individual claims have been sent out. Organizations (school districts included) will be receiving letters during November 2008. Organizations have 90 days to either agree or appeal finding contained in the letter.
September 15, 2008	October 31, 2008	Original application dates based on settlement and the processing of the claims.	Changed because of the following issues: delay in processing of the volume licenses; lack of a definitive budget amount; linkage to the Iowa Core Curriculum; and lack of product eligibility list from Microsoft.
September 20, 2008	October 7, 2008	Online filing of the "Letter of Intent"	Voluntary letter to collect information for lowa Department of Education and area education agencies regarding possible district focus areas. Does not impact filing status.
November 20, 2008	December 20, 2008	Based on the claims administrator creating the eligibility list and the claims administrator mailing the volume claims letter by November.	Same reason as the September 15- October 31, 2008 application postponement, plus large number of districts that were filing for extensions in their Letter of Intent.
April 15, 2009	May 15, 2009	Application window open at edinfo.state.ia.us	Districts submit application for eligible school buildings based on the claims administrator creating eligibility list by December 2008.
May 16, 2009	August 16, 2009	Approval/resubmission letters sent by lowa Department of Education reviewer to applicants.	Vouchers issued during this time period.
August 17, 2009	August 16, 2013	Full funding period for the Microsoft funds redeemable through vouchers only.	This will be determined by the claims administrator by March 15, 2009.
August 17, 2009	August 16, 2013	Dates for eligible invoices in order to qualify for program invoices submitted by district on behalf of the buildings to the claims administrator.	No invoice will be allowed that is prior to August 17, 2009. If approval is after this date, the program will run from the applicant's approval date until August 16, 2013.
May 16, 2009	November 11, 2009	Application window for districts who requested a 180-day extension on their application.	No invoices for this period will be allowed for districts who request this extension until the date of their application's approval.
May 16, 2009	May 11, 2010	Application window for districts who requested a 360-day extension on their application.	No invoices for this period will be allowed for districts who request this extension until the date of their application's approval.

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For more information, please contact John O'Connell Iowa Department of Education Microsoft Settlement contractor at john.oconnell@mchsi.com.

Incentive Program for SLP Preservice Opportunities

The Iowa Department of Education Bureau of Student and Family Support Services, in partnership with the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and St. Ambrose University, is offering incentives for individuals interested in pursuing speech-language pathologist (SLP) careers, particularly individuals with undergraduate degrees who are considering "retooling" their education to a high-demand field. Please see the attached document for details. Contact is Frank Forcucci at 515-281-3527 or frank.forcucci@iowa.gov.

New IEP Website

At the end of September, the Bureau of Student and Family Support Services at the Iowa Department of Education launched a website entitled "Iowa's Guidance for Quality IEPs (Individualized Education Programs)".

This website provides information for lowa's special education practitioners. It is hoped that by using the information on this website, lowa's special education practitioners will be able to lead teams as they develop IEPs that will positively direct the education of all the students in lowa with special education needs. Contents include both regulatory and best practice information about various topics surrounding the development of effective quality IEPs that are compliant with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Bookmarks with the website address and a list of topics will be distributed to all special education teachers and support service providers by the area education agencies (AEAs). The address for the website is www.jepguality.jowa.gov

For more information contact Sharon Hawthorne at 515-281-5461 or sharon.hawthorne@iowa.gov or Kiersten Hensley at 515-281-4123 or kiersten.hensley@iowa.gov.

2008 Iowa Summit on Collaborative Efforts to Meet the Needs of All Iowa Learners

The lowa Department of Education recently hosted a statewide summit of educational stakeholders in Ames. The 2008 lowa Summit on Collaborative Efforts to Meet the Needs of All lowa Learners: Dialogue Between Educator Preparation and the PK-12 Education Community was sponsored by Iowa's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant and involved approximately 300 invited participants.

The purpose of this summit was to build collaborative relationships between the educator preparation programs and PK-12 education with a focus on preparing all teachers to meet the increasingly diverse needs of all Iowa PK-12 students. Invited participants included representatives from educator preparation programs, PK-12 school districts, community colleges, area education agencies, the Iowa Department of Education, the Board of Educational Examiners, as well as several state professional organizations.

For more information on this meeting, please contact Carole Richardson (<u>carole.richardson@iowa.gov</u> or 515-725-0101) or Helene Grossman (<u>helene.grossman@iowa.gov</u> or 515-281-3640).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Teacher Loan Forgiveness Programs in Iowa

The Iowa College Aid Commission provides applications and criteria for teacher loan forgiveness. Three of the loan forgiveness programs are listed below.

The website is www.iowacollegeaid.gov/commissioncentral/loanforgiveness/

- Teacher Shortage: maximum award is \$6,420. Iowa Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness criteria: You are a fully licensed teacher and begin your first classroom teaching job in Iowa no earlier than July 1, 2007; you are employed full-time for one full year in a teacher shortage area as designated by the Iowa Department of Education; you keep your loan account(s) in good standing. If you need assistance, contact your loan holder to discuss deferment and forbearance options available to postpone payments.
- Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness: maximum award \$5,000. Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness criteria include criteria for schools designated as low income. Teachers may qualify for up to \$17,500 if they meet the criteria for Federal Loan Forgiveness and teach in the area of math or science.
- Federal Perkins Loan Program: Some teachers may be eligible for <u>Perkins Loan Cancellation</u> for full-time teaching at a <u>low-income school</u> or in certain <u>subject areas</u>.

The contact for all Legal Lessons items is Carol Greta, carol.greta@iowa.gov; 515-281-8661.

Link to "Blue Book" for Level I Investigators

This annual training of Level I investigators of allegations of abuse of students by school employees was held October 6. If your Level I investigator missed the training, she/he may contact your area education agency (AEA) for tapes of the session. Also, the manual (the "Blue Book") is either available from each AEA or may be downloaded from the <u>lowa Department of Education's website</u>.

Student Member of State Board of Education

Applications for the student member to the State Board of Education will be available on the Iowa Department of Education's website within a few weeks. The term of the student member starts May 1, 2009 and ends April 30, 2010. The Board meets at least nine times during that term, with most meetings taking place in the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines.

Besides being a full-time, regularly enrolled 10th or 11th grade student in a public high school, the student must meet these requirements:

- Has a GPA of at least 3.0 (4.0 scale) or 3.75 (5.0 scale);
- Has attended his/her present high school at least the past two consecutive semesters (or the equivalent thereof);
- Demonstrates participation in extracurricular and community activities, as well as an interest in serving on the board.

More information and a link to the application and all required supporting documentation will appear in the next two issues of *School Leaders Update*.

lowa Court of Appeals Ruling on District's Duty to Supervise Students Involved in Athletic Competitions

In a boys high school basketball game, Student A from District A strikes Student B from School B in the head with his elbow. Student A is whistled for a technical and ejected from the game. District A imposes a five game suspension (in addition to the mandatory one game suspension per Iowa High School Athletic Association rules) on Student A.

About 18 months later, Student B and his family sue Student A and District A, claiming that District A knew that Student A was an aggressive player and failed to take adequate steps to prevent injury to Student B. Trial court ordered Student A to pay \$23,000 damages to Student B and his family (\$13,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses and \$10,000 for pain and suffering), but found District A to not be liable. Student A appealed.

The Iowa Court of Appeals ruled on October 29 as follows:

- 1. Student A did indeed commit a battery (a form of assault) on Student B without cause or excuse. Damages upheld in full.
- 2. District A was not liable because it could not reasonably foresee that Student A would commit this battery for the following reasons:
 - i. Student A had never exhibited characteristics of being physically assaultive or being a dangerous individual; he played "intensely, but not aggressively."
 - ii. No witness testified that Student A ever exhibited aggressive or assaultive behavior.
 - iii. Student A never previously fouled out of any basketball game.
 - iv. Student A's only previous technical foul was for swearing.
 - v. Student A had never been a discipline problem, and never had previously gotten into a fight.
- 3. BUT: District A was not entitled to a summary judgment (which would have allowed District A to avoid the trial altogether) because:
 - i. Claims of negligent supervision are recognized in Iowa courts.
 - ii. Supervising members of an athletic team is not a discretionary function, so the district was not entitled to immunity.

Lesson: If a school official (in this case, a coach) knows or should know that a student consistently plays in a manner that goes beyond "intense" so that others are at risk of injury, and if the school official fails to take reasonable steps to rein in that player, the school could be successfully sued the next time another kid gets hurt.

STUDENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION

School Meal Programs to Receive Additional Administrative Reviews

In November 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the findings of the Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification (APEC) study to local, state, and federal administrators, citing troubling information on erroneous payments in the school meal programs.

Specifically, the APEC data indicates that erroneous payments (including both under- and over-payments) totaled \$935 million in certification errors, and \$860 million in non-certification errors nationwide in FY 2005-06, alone. Section 126 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-265) amended section 22 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, to establish a requirement to complete some ADDITIONAL administrative reviews (AARs) beginning this school year, focusing on applications and counting and claiming.

Utilizing the USDA guidelines, Iowa has selected six schools for these additional reviews. Criteria for selecting the six schools included the rates of household non-response and benefit change during verification. If you receive a regular review this year you will not be selected for an AAR, but schools may be selected for an AAR any time during the five year review cycle, including the year before or the year after a regular review. Letters have been sent to the six lowa schools selected.

If you have questions, contact Patti Harding at patti.harding@iowa.gov or 515-281-4754.

DATA AND REPORTING

School Board Officers Report Due November 1

The newly elected School Board Officers should be reported by November 1. The School Board Officers Report is updated throughout the school year as changes occur in the board officers. Questions may be directed to denise.ragias@iowa.gov or 515-281-4600.

FUNDING AND GRANTS

Title II(A) Application Process to Change

The application process for the Title II(A) federal allocation program has changed. The online electronic budget application for the program will be included on the Iowa Department of Education's secure EdInfo site.

The application is scheduled to be posted and available the week of November 10. The Title IIA and Title V lowa Communications Network (ICN) sessions that were postponed will be rescheduled for mid-November; check the DE's website for the dates and times.

For more information, contact Marietta Rives at marietta.rives@iowa.gov or 515-281-8278.

Community Service Grants Due November 17, 2008

The purpose of ComServ lowa is to advance the concepts associated with service-learning by providing federal funds to local school districts who are interested in establishing, expanding, implementing, or operating a service-learning program in a particular building or grade level, or across the entire school district or curriculum. The grant range is \$7500-10,000. More information can be found at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1547/1701/.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards Trainings

Ongoing Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards trainings will be provided by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on the following dates:

- November 19 (Standards 3-Teaching, 4-Assessment of Child Progress, and 5-Health);
- January 21 (Standards 6-Teachers and 7-Families); and
- February 18 (Standards 8-Community Relationships and 9-Physical Environment). See document, "Year Two Technical Assistance Chart" posted on the DE website (http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/940/1016/) for additional information.

Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) Verification Visits

The Early Childhood Services Bureau is beginning Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS) verification visits with district grantees (Year 1, 2007-2008, awarded grantees) implementing these program standards.

- Fifty-one districts are scheduled for site visits between October and April of 2008-2009.
- The other districts will verify to the Iowa Department of Education that they meet preschool program standards for National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation or Head Start Program Performance Standards.

Please note that ALL community preschools partnering with districts will be included in the verification visit. This includes any new partners added to Year 1 (2007-2008) district grantees to assure implementation of quality preschool programs.

For additional information regarding Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs for Four-Year-Old Children, contact Lorri Cooper at 515-281-3033 or lorri.cooper@iowa.gov.

Preschool Program Requirements for Early Childhood Special Education

lowa law requires accredited school districts and nonpublic schools operating preschools and child care programs to either meet lowa Department of Education (DE) Program Standards or obtain Department of Human Services (DHS) licensure [lowa Code § 279.49, 280.3A].

The DE has defined the Preschool Program Standards as the following:

- 1.) Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (QPPS);
- 2.) Head Start Program Performance Standards; or
- 3.) National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Accreditation.

The Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Early Childhood (EC) programs serving children on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) must meet the DE Preschool Program Standards requirement. Therefore, beginning in 2008–2009, ECSE and EC programs serving children on an IEP are expected to select and implement one of the three required Preschool Program Standards.

District administrators with ECSE and EC programs serving children on an IEP that implement QPPS may want to consider the following:

- Contacting area education agencies (AEA) early childhood leadership for information about early childhood professional development;
- Becoming familiar with the QPPS standards and criteria;
- Completing the QPPS self-assessment with support from the AEA ECSE/EC staff; and
- Developing a QPPS quality improvement plan.

Information about the Iowa QPPS is available on the Iowa Department of Education website at http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/681/805/. For additional information regarding implications for Early Childhood Special Education programs, contact Dee Gethmann at 515-281-5502 or dee.gethmann@iowa.gov.

CALENDAR

Deadlines and Dates to Remember

November 1 **DEADLINE**: Certified Enrollment — last day to amend report

DEADLINE: Innovative Calendar Waiver Application Due

DEADLINE: Whole Grade Sharing — Last day for public notice of board intent

DEADLINE: School Board Officers Report

Special Education Student Weighting Calculated

November 5 E-rate 101 Training Session (pam.jacobs@iowa.gov or 515-975-0071)

November 8 **DEADLINE** for requests to appear before the next meeting of the School Budget

Review Committee (SBRC) (https://www.edinfo.state.ia.us/web/sbrc_hearing.asp)

November 17 Community Service Grants Due

November 19-21 State Board of Education Meeting

November 30 Reorganization effective next July 1 - last day for an election

December 1 School Budget Review Committee Application - Increased Enrollment, Open

Enrollment Out & LEP

Click <u>HERE</u> for a *complete*Iowa Department of Education Calendar

SCHOOL LEADER UPDATE is produced monthly by the lowa Department of Education for school leaders of lowa. Comments and submissions should be sent to Elaine Watkins-Miller at elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov or 515-281-5295.

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C.§§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C.§ 12101, et seq.).

If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by the lowa Department of Education, please contact the legal counsel for the lowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0146, telephone number 515/281-5295; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, telephone number 312/730-1560, fax 312/730-1576, email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov.



Applications should include the following information:



TEACHING IN TAIWAN Application Packet

lowa has implemented an agreement with the Ministry of Education in Republic of China (Taiwan) that will offer experienced and newly licensed lowa teachers the opportunity to teach in Taiwanese schools for one year. Any licensed lowa teacher with a K-6 endorsement may apply to participate in this program. This includes new teachers with an initial license.

Applications for the Teaching in Taiwan program must be **postmarked by April 24, 2009**. Send or hand deliver completed applications to:

Brianne Munoz Iowa Department of Education Grimes State Office Building 400 E 14th St Des Moines IA 50319

	Completed application (If possible, this should be sent electronically to jody.crane@iowa.gov . Additionally, a hard copy of the application and all other documents should be sent to the address above.)
	Recommendation forms from three references (included in packet.)
	Resume.
	Copy of transcript (This is required only if you graduated within the last two years. For new graduates: a current transcript will suffice; a final transcript can be submitted when available.)
	Copy of teaching certificate (This applies only to current teachers. New teachers will submit a copy once they have received their certificate.)
	Recent photo of yourself (optional).
hose ducat	al Background Check teachers, new or experienced, who have completed a background check through the Board of tional Examiners (BOEE) after April 24, 2008, have met this requirement. Those who do no meet this ment can apply for a background check at the time of interviews.
	Check here if you completed a criminal background check after April 24, 2008. Please include your Social Security number so your criminal background check can be accessed. Social Security #

examination. Because of the time constraints, it is advised that anyone submitting an application also schedule a physical exam and immediately apply for a passport (if you do not hold a current one).

Successful applicants will be assisted in obtaining a visa and work permit.

Upon selection, successful candidates will need to submit a health certificate; this requires a thorough physical

Interviews will be conducted the weeks of May 4 and 11, 2009. Teachers living a distance from Des Moines have the option of a videoconference interview.

TEACHING IN TAIWAN

(Early August 2009 – Early July 2010) (Application must be postmarked by April 24, 2009)

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION (please complete in addition to attaching resume)

Last Name:

First Name:

Place and Date of Birth: ____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City:	State:	Country:	ZIP:	
Talanhana Numbar		Fa.::		
Telephone Number:_		Fax:		

E-mail: ______ Alternate Phone Number: _____

II. EDUCATION (please complete in addition to attaching resume)

Ph.D.:
Year Obtained:
University:

Masters':
Year Obtained:
University:

Bachelors': _____ Year Obtained: _____ University: _____ Other Relevant Education Experience:

III. TEACHING EXPERIENCE (please complete in addition to attaching resume)

Iowa Teaching Certificate Number: _____ Total Years of Teaching Experience:_____

If you are or will be a new graduate, have you applied for your Iowa Teaching Certificate? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please explain (please see FAQ for information regarding licensure for new graduates):

Current Teaching Position (Grade, School, School District):

Number of Years in Current Position:

Other Relevant Teaching Experience:

IV.	ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS (including other foreign language experience	

V. ESSAY

Please provide us with a clear and detailed description (two page maximum) of your reasons for wishing to participate in the Teaching in Taiwan program. Include the objectives you wish to accomplish during your time in Taiwan, and how you hope to use that experience upon your return to the United States.

VI. REFERENCES

Please submit letters of reference from three professional references. Provide each of these references with a copy of the accompanying form to complete and **return to you**. You should include these completed forms with your final application package.

Please use this space to provide us with the names and relevant information of your references.

Reference #1	
Name	
Title	
Organization	
Street Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Telephone	
Relationship to Applicant	
Number of Years of Association	

Reference #2	
Name	
Title	
Organization	
Street Address	
City, State, ZIP	
Telephone	
Relationship to Applicant	
Number of Years of Association	

Reference #3
Name
Title
Organization
Street Address
City, State, ZIP
Telephone
Relationship to Applicant
Number of Years of Association
Signature of Applicant:

Date:

TEACHING IN TAIWAN Recommendation Form

Applicant: Please provide your references with BLANK copies of this form to complete and return to you. You should submit the completed forms along with the rest of your application package.

Reference: Please complete this form and r	return it to applicant.
Name of person applying for Teaching in Taiwan program:	
Name of person completing recommendation form:	
Mailing address:	
City, state, ZIP:	Daytime telephone number:
Relationship to applicant:	
	aximum) for recommending this applicant for Teaching is will travel to Taiwan to teach English to Taiwanese.
Signature of Reference:	Date:





TEACHING IN TAIWAN Frequently Asked Questions

lowa has an agreement with the Ministry of Education in Republic of China (Taiwan) that will offer experienced and newly licensed lowa teachers the opportunity to teach in Taiwanese schools for up to one academic year.

Q: What is the Teaching in Taiwan program?

A: This program provides Iowa elementary teachers who are native English speakers the opportunity to teach English to students in Taiwan.

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: Any licensed lowa teacher with a K-6 endorsement may apply to participate in this program. This includes new teachers with an initial license. New teachers will be able to complete their lowa Teaching Standards evaluation requirements upon return. (See additional FAQs below for more information.)

Q: What if I don't graduate until May?

A: May graduates are encouraged to apply. The lowa Department of Education and the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) will work with colleges and universities to expedite the licensure process.

Q: How do I apply for the program?

A: To apply for the Teaching in Taiwan program, you will need to complete and submit a brief application packet. You can obtain a copy of this application packet by visiting http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/689/927/ or by contacting Brianne Munoz at Brianne.Munoz@iowa.gov or 515-725-2067. All applications must be postmarked by April 24, 2009.

Q: How many lowa teachers will be accepted for the program?

A: Each year, a selection committee will choose up to 10 lowa teachers to participate.

Q: When will I be notified if I have been selected to participate in the program?

A: Interviews will be conducted the weeks of May 4 and 11, 2009. Teachers living a distance from Des Moines will have the option of a videoconference interview. Successful applicants will be notified by May 29, 2009.

Q: Will I be required to have a physical examination?

A: Upon selection, successful candidates will need to submit a health certificate; this requires a thorough physical examination. Because of the time constraints, it is advised that anyone submitting an application also schedule a physical examination as soon as possible.

Q: If I'm selected, how long will I be in Taiwan?

A: All teachers selected to participate in this program will sign an 11-month contract to teach in Taiwan. This contract runs from early August 2009 through early July 2010. Specific dates will be available in the near future.

Q: What would my responsibilities be in Taiwan?

A: Each participating lowa teacher will be paired with a Taiwanese classroom teacher. In addition to providing English language instruction, the lowa teachers will work with Taiwanese educators to develop curriculum, prepare lesson plans and teaching materials, conduct classes, and evaluate student progress.

Q: How will I be compensated for my work in Taiwan?

A: In addition to your salary, the Taiwanese government will provide lowa teachers with housing arrangements and a housing allowance. Salaries will be dependent on teaching experience and level of education, according to the following schedule. Salary will be paid in NT (Taiwanese currency). An approximate salary exchange is as follows:

- Holders of Doctoral Degrees: NT\$70,895-\$88,755/month (\$2,196.59-\$2,749.96/month, US Dollars)
- Holders of Masters' Degrees: NT\$67,925-\$84,290/month (\$2,104.57-\$2,611.62/month, US Dollars)
- Holders of Bachelors' Degrees: NT\$60,890-\$75,770/month (\$1,886.60-\$2,347.64/month, US Dollars)

Q: Are benefits included?

A: The Ministry of Education Republic of China will ensure schools will provide teachers with health care benefits including 70 percent of health insurance and 80 percent of labor insurance.

Q: Will I have to buy a plane ticket?

A: The Taiwanese government will provide each teacher (and his or her spouse) a roundtrip plane ticket to Taiwan.

Q: What about a passport?

A: You will be required to have a passport. Because it may take several weeks to secure a passport, applicants who do not hold a current passport are encouraged to apply for one immediately.

Q: What kind of documentation will I need to travel to and work in Taiwan?

A: You will need a current passport, visa, and work permit. You will be responsible for the cost of these documents. The Taiwan Ministry of Education will assist participating teachers in applying for a visa and work permit. Further information concerning these documents will be provided to those teachers selected to participate.

Q: Are there any other requirements?

A: Yes, a background check by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) is required for all applicants. Those teachers, new or experienced, who have completed a background check through the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) after April 24, 2008, have met this requirement. Those who do not meet this requirement can apply for a background check at the time of interviews.

Q: How will my participation affect the accumulation of years towards retirement?

A: Assuming that a current (experienced) teacher would be on an educational leave of absence and is vested (four years of service), that teacher may take the leave and return to IPERS covered employment. The teacher may purchase the time upon completion of the leave. (S)he would then get credit for the time, but not the wages that would have been earned had they not taken the leave.

A current teacher who is not vested may purchase the time once s(he) becomes vested. The same procedure would apply to "new" teachers who have not become vested. In the event that the new teacher or the current teacher never becomes vested, the buy-in program would not be applicable.

To apply for a buy-in with IPERS: The employee will need to print the application available at www.ipers.org and return the completed application to IPERS along with documentation of the approved leave of absence. IPERS would then have an actuary calculate a cost for purchasing the leave of absence time. An employee has six months to purchase the leave at that cost. If the leave is not purchased within six months, a new cost must be calculated. An employee is under no obligation to make the purchase.

Q: How will my participation in the program affect my eligibility for a standard lowa teaching license?

A: For teachers with an initial lowa license, teaching experience in Taiwan will be accepted by the BOEE toward meeting the requirements for a standard license. If you have questions, contact Susan Fischer at susan.fischer@iowa.gov or (515) 281-3605.

Q: Where can I learn more about Taiwan?

A: http://www.taiwanembassy.org/US/CHI/mp.asp?mp=27

Q: Does low currently have teachers in this program?

In the past, we've had as many as four teachers participate in the program. This year, we have one. Following are comments from teachers about their experiences:

"The kids are very friendly... and many of them are really bright. They also seem to appreciate my. teaching strategies." (Paul)

"My school and kids are great. The teachers and faculty have been wonderful." (Mary)

Q: Who should I contact for more information about the Teaching in Taiwan program?

A: Contact Brianne Munoz at Brianne.Munoz@iowa.gov or 515-725-2067.

Incentives for Speech-Language Pathologist Professionals

Individuals looking for a career in education are being offered newly-developed incentives to enter an educational profession that is facing acute shortages in Iowa with expected shortages nationwide in the near future.

"Speech-language pathologists who serve children and youth in school settings are in big demand," says Frank Forcucci, Iowa's Department of Education consultant for speech-language services in educational settings. These professionals, typically termed SLPs, provide support and related services to students with a variety of communication disorders. Services are provided individually or in small group and classroom settings.

According to the national Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 14,000 additional speech-language pathologists will be needed to fill the demand between 2006 and 2014, a 15 percent increase in job openings. Salaries in the Midwest range between \$55,712 and \$58,224 annually. In Iowa, SLPs are typically employed by area education agencies, or in some cases, by urban school districts.

Among the newly-developed incentives to recruit SLPs is a program geared at individuals with bachelor's degrees who are interested in furthering their education to enter the SLP profession.

To make SLP coursework affordable and available to such individuals, the University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, St. Ambrose University in Davenport and the Iowa Department of Education's Bureau of Student and Family Support Services are partnering to offer prerequisite courses available statewide through online offerings.

Iowa licensure requires that speech-language pathologists hold a master's degree in speech pathology. Individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in a related field and have an interest in changing professions will be able to take seven prerequisite courses online to prepare them to apply to an Iowa graduate program in speech-language pathology.

The University of Iowa will offer the first online course entitled *Speech Production Anatomy and Physiology* during the 2009 spring semester. The instructor will be Dr. Jerry Moon.

During the 2009 summer semester, St. Ambrose University will offer *Audiology-Aural Rehabilitation*, and in the fall of 2009 the University of Northern Iowa will offer *Phonetics*. The remaining four courses will be announced at a later time.

Among the financial incentives supporting the online prerequisite program is a reduction in cost for St. Ambrose University courses. SLP prerequisite courses available through this private university will be offered at a tuition rate comparable to state university rates.

Additional incentives include options for federal forgivable loans and signing bonuses with some area education agencies. For more information regarding Iowa's recruitment program for SLPs in education, contact Frank Forcucci, Iowa Department of Education, at 515-281-3527 or at

Frank.Forcucci@iowa.gov.

For additional details or registration information regarding the first online prerequisite course, contact the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Center at 319-335-8731. Registration information can also be found at the following web site: http://isis5.uiowa.edu/isis/courses/search.page.